

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 12-14 as shown below:

It is to be noted herein that the laser diode arrays 3 disposed in the direction of the width W of the cladding material 1 as shown in Fig. 1 are classified into a group 3C for irradiation of the width(W)-wise central portion of the cladding material 1 with laser beams having an output 2C and groups 3R, 3L for irradiation of the width(W)-wise marginal portions of the cladding material 1 with laser beams having outputs 2R, 2L. The control device (not shown) performs control such that the electric current supplied to the laser diode arrays 3 of the group 3C for irradiation of the width(W)-wise central portion 1C of the cladding material 1 becomes lower than the current supplied to the laser diode arrays 3 of the groups 3R, 3L for irradiation of the width(W)-wise marginal portions 1R, 1L of the cladding material 1. For example, the control device (not shown) performs control such that the output from the laser diode arrays 3 of the group C for irradiation of the width(W)-wise central portion 1C of the cladding material 1 assumes 50% and that the output from the laser diode arrays 3 of the groups 3R, 3L for irradiation of the width(W)-wise marginal portions 1R, 1L of the cladding material 1 assumes 90%. Thus, as shown in Fig. 1 [(a)], the cladding material 1 is irradiated such that beams with which the cladding material 1 is irradiated in its width(W)-wise central portion 1C exhibit a low (weak) intensity 2C and that beams with which the cladding material 1 is irradiated in its width(W)-wise marginal portions 1R, 1L exhibit high (strong) intensities 2R, 2L respectively. The width(W)-wise central portion 1C of the cladding material 1 has been deposited to a great thickness and can be processed easily, whereas the width(W)-wise marginal portions 1R, 1L of the cladding material 1 have been deposited to a small thickness and cannot be processed easily. That is, the

shaping of the laser beams 2 in the direction of the width W of the part 1 to be processed according to the present invention is synonymous with the shaping of the laser beams 2 not only in such a manner as to perform control for allowing radiation of the laser beams 2 having a width substantially equal to the width W of the part 1 to be processed but also in such a manner as to allow radiation of laser beams having suitable intensities in the direction of the width W of the part 1 to be processed, namely, in such a manner as to allow the part 1 to be processed to be heated with suitable distribution of heat input. As a result, as shown in Fig. 6(b) as the present invention, the cladding material 1 is heated substantially uniformly in the direction of the width W thereof and is welded to the surface of the base material 5 without being diluted, so that the smooth cladding layer 1' is formed. On the other hand, as shown in Fig. 6(b) as the comparative example that is distinct from the present invention, if the laser beams 2 having a uniform intensity are radiated from the laser diode arrays 3 in the direction of the width of the cladding material 1, the width(W)-wise central portion 1C of the cladding material 1 is heated excessively and diluted with the base material 5, and the width(W)-wise marginal portions 1R, 1L of the cladding material 1 are heated insufficiently and cannot be welded sufficiently as in the case of the background art. Also, the cladding layer 1' is formed such that its apex is bulgy and biased toward a location which has been heated excessively and to which a great amount of heat is inputted.

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached three drawing sheets include changes to FIGs. 1, 4, and 5. The drawing sheets replace the original three drawing sheets respectively showing FIGs. 1, 4 and 5. In the replacement sheets, the references to "(a)", "(b)" and "(c)" have been deleted. No new matter has been added.

Attachment: 3 replacement sheets